

Acronyms and Relevant Agencies Relating to Cultural Resources in Oklahoma

SHPO—State Historic Preservation Office

Every state has a SHPO which operates under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. In Oklahoma the SHPO is responsible for overseeing the protection of historic-age cultural resources (AD 1700-1950).

Survey—Oklahoma Archaeological Survey

- The Survey has an agreement with the SHPO regarding prehistoric cultural resources in the Oklahoma. The Survey maintains a database of all known archaeological sites (historic and prehistoric) in the State. These records include maps and an 8-page form. They use the same 7.5-minute topographic maps that we use.
- The SHPO and the Survey have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with NRCS stating that NRCS will perform archaeological surveys on all projects that we undertake, in lieu of the Survey performing the surveys. This MOA allows us to get conservation on the ground in a timely manner. The SHPO and Survey can cancel this agreement at any time if we fail to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act. On projects less than 5 acres, field personnel who have participated in the Cultural Resources training can conduct the ground survey. Projects over 5 acres will require a field inspection by an archaeologist.
- Clearance for Cultural Resources is just as important as getting approval from landowners, local County Commissioners, OKIE (utilities locating service), Floodplain Management Boards, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Army Corps of Engineers, or any other entity that oversees specific activities.

Section 106—Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966

The head of any Federal agency will take into account the effect of the undertaking on a site that has the potential for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

National Register—National Register of Historic Places

The National Register and the National Register Handbook is a county by county listing of all National Register sites. The National Register is a catalog of archaeological sites, historic buildings, historic districts, historic structures, and prehistoric or historic objects. Through their presence we identify our past achievements as Americans. Criteria for inclusion are:

- a) locations, structures, etc. associated with events which have made significant contributions to our past;
- b) locations, structures, etc. associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- c) locations, structures, etc. that represent distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, artistry, or created by a unique person; and,
- d) have yielded or are likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

Advisory Council—Advisory Council for Historic Preservation

The Advisory Council is the National entity that oversees all Cultural Resources issue in the U.S. They were created and operate under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. If we have a disagreement with the SHPO and Survey, they will weigh the merits of the conflict and resolve the issue.

BIA—Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior

The BIA manages all tribal land in the State of Oklahoma. Besides managing the land, they also oversee all issues relating to cultural resources on tribal land. The NRCS will work in cooperation with the BIA archaeologists to allow our projects to proceed.